Closing Down of the Units in GRSE

914. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Garden Reach Ship builders and Engineers Ltd., Calcutta, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence, has decided to close down a number of its units;

(b) if so, what are those units and what they produce; and

(c) whether such a step is likely to result in curtailment or redundancy of a portion of labour force now working in the factory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Certain unprofitable lines of production in Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., will be wound up in order to improve the Company's overall performance.

(b) These relate basically to engineering items like cranes.

(c) There is no intention to retrench any workers provided they can be retrained and redeployed.

Proposal for setting up a Power Plant in Bakreswar in West Bengal

915. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for setting up a power plant in Bakreswar in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what is the likely capacity of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) The Government of West Beingal propose to set up a thermal power plant at Bakreswar with a capacity of 3x210 MW (Stage I).

Reservoirs of River Dams in the Country

916. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA.
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of siltation has been far more than anticipated at the time of formulation of the projects in all the reservoirs of river dams in the country and as a reult, the life expectancy of these reservoirs is likely to be drastically reduced; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Surveys conducted so far indicate that the rate of siltation is higher than that assumed at their planning stage. This is not expected to reduce drastically the designed service life of the projects.

(b) Twenty-eight reservoir catchments are receiving soil conservation treatment under the centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Department of Agriculture under which measures such as afforestation, economic plantation and raising of utility trees contour bunding, terracing, check dams and pasture development which reduce soil erosion and consequent siltation are included. Increased stress is being laid on afforestation. States are also advised to take similar measures on their own.

Villagers of Bara Gagari Village Near Ranchi—Victims of Lethiarisis' Disease

917. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to news item which appeared

In "Statesman" Delhi of 8th June, 1985 to the effect that people of Bara Gagari, village, 30 Km, from Ranchi, are suffering for "Lethiarisis' and die young;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made to find out the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, what remeidial action has been taken against responsible persons; and

(e) the steps being taken for proper check-up and medical treatment of the villagers?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Lathyrism is a disease of the nervous system generally affecting youngmen in the age of 15 to 45 year. The disease is caused by consumption of large amounts of Kesari dal i. e. more than two thirds of the daily diet. This dal is extensively cultivated in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and parts of Eastern UP, Bengal, Maharashtra, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. Rule 44-A of the PFA Rules 1955 prohibits the sale of kesari dal and its products in any form. All the State Government except Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have banned the sale of Kesari dal under this provision.

The State Government have been advised to undertake necessary health and education propaganda through Radio, Press and other media, to caution people about the harmful effects of kesari dal. The State Governments have also been advised to cultivate low toxin varieties of kesari dal in the kesari dal growing belts.

Proposed Mysore-Tellicherry Line

918. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation urging the construction of a broadgauge Railway link between Mysore and Tellichery on the Southern Raiway; and

(b) if so what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to approve this project due to severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments on hand.

Steps to provide adequate safety to Delhi Citizens against Hazards of Electrocution

919. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:
DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in the *Times of India* of July 15, 1985. captioned "DESU Apathetic to safety";

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to provide adequate safety to the public against hazards of electrocution presented by hanging live wires and open cut out boxes, and of fires by short circuits, specially on the eve of the monsoon this year; and

(c) whether any deaths have been caused by electrocution due to loose wire and cables in July, 1985, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINITSER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DESU have taken several steps to check cases of electrocution which include (i) provision of adequate guards